

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 17 April 1545 and proved 7 February 1548, of William Castelyn, whose daughter was the stepmother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575, and whose son married Humphrey Martyn's sister. See the Langham page on this website.

The testator's son, Thomas Castelyn, was a party to an indenture by which Welbeck Abbey was conveyed to the Queen.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The names of the testator's parents are unknown. He had a brother:

**-James Castelyn**, who in his will mentions Norton in Derbyshire as his birthplace. For the will of James Castelyn, dated 18 April 1558 and proved 9 February 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42A/330.

For a Chancery suit mentioning the testator and his brother, James Castelyn, see TNA C 1/824/70-73.

### ***MARRIAGE AND ISSUE***

The testator married Angelet Vlacho or Vlachos (buried 19 August 1570), the eldest daughter and heir of Michel Vlacho of Chios, Greece. See *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1870), Vol. III, p. 7 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=5joQAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PA7>

See also Harris, Jonathan and Heleni Porfyriou, 'The Greek Diaspora: Italian Port Cities and London', in Calabi, Donatella and Stephen Turk Christensen, eds., *Cities and Cultural Exchange in Europe, 1400-1700*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 65-86 at p. 79:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ZQJMIQEJZAC&pg=PA79>

For Angelet Vlacho's sister, who appears to have married Robert Bye, factor at Chios from 1544-1552, see the will of Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), TNA PROB 11/56/48.

By Angelet Vlacho, the testator had three sons and three daughters:

\* **Edward Castelyn** (buried 19 November 1585). For the record of his burial at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London; Part I: Baptisms and Burials*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. XLIV, p. 290 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registersofstmar44stma/page/290>

For Edward Castelyn's participation in a voyage to Guinea in 1554 see:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.03.0070%3Anarrative%3D522>

*The second voyage to Guinea set out by Sir George Barne, Sir John Yorke, Thomas Lok, Anthonie Hickman and Edward Castelin, in the yere 1554. The Captaine whereof was M. John Lok.*

For Edward Castelyn's voyage to Guinea, see also McDermott, James, *Martin Frobisher: Elizabethan Privateer*, (Yale University Press, 2001), p. 39 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YeMcPYIKNYUC&pg=PA39>

*Of the previous year's promoters, [Sir John] Yorke and Sir George Barne . . . had swiftly put together a new syndicate of five London merchants to finance a further voyage. Other than themselves, this comprised Edward Castelyn, Anthony Hickman and Thomas Lok – men who had also traded for a number of years as an Anglo-Iberian syndicate (Hickman and Castelyn jointly maintained a factory in the Canaries, from where they imported sugar into England).*

For Edward Castelyn's involvement in the Frobisher voyages in search of the Northwest Passage, in which Oxford sustained heavy losses, see McDermott, James, ed., *The Third Voyage of Martin Frobisher to Baffin Island 1578*, (London: The Hakluyt Society, 2001), pp. 93, 98-9.

For Edward Castelyn's property in the parish of St Pancras, Soper Lane, see also:

Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane. Originally published by Centre for Metropolitan History, London, 1987.

*In 1548 St. Pancras church had a quit-rent of 13s. 4d. from the tenement at the E. end of the church, given by John Lagage for his obit. This quit-rent was thereafter paid to the Crown, until 1651, when it was sold with other quit-rents and fee-farm rents, to Brian Bromery of Barnard's Inn. It was recovered by the Crown after the Restoration and noted in a rental of 1664. (fn. 7) The owner of the tenement itself at the time of the Reformation is not known, but by 1581 it was owned, and is part occupied, by Edward Castlyn, citizen and mercer. It was described as two tenements, one of which was occupied by Castlyn*

*and the other by Benet Harmston or Hamerton, widow, on a lease of 41 years from 1580 at 4d. rent. In 1581 Edward Castlyn, with John Castlyn, citizen and mercer, granted the two messuages, with all houses, buildings, gardens, void ground, lights, cellars, solars, etc., to Thomas Fanshawe, esquire, Queen's Remembrancer, and George Barne, alderman, to hold to the use of John Castlyn. If Edward Castlyn paid John £332 in or before 1583, and also procured his release from an obligation to pay Thomas Allen, pewterer, £5 on 10 August every year from 1584, then the use of the premises should revert to him (Edward). If Edward failed to pay the £332 he would confirm and acknowledge the grant within 4 years. Fanshawe and Barne were to repair the property while they held it. (fn. 8)*

*By his will, dated 1608 and 1615 and proved in 1621, John Castelyn, citizen and mercer, left the fee simple of his dwelling-house and the tenement belonging to it which he had bought from his brother Edward Castelyn, to his wife Martha for ever. He also left her the 99-year lease of the same tenements, which Thomas Tomson of Sandwich had made over to him. In 1624 Martha Castelyn, widow, sold the reversion after her own death of 2 messuages in St. Pancras parish, late occupied by her late husband John Castelyn and by Bennett Hamerton, widow, to Robert Cruse or Crewes, citizen and grocer, for £30 paid and the promise of £150 to her executors for her will. By her will of 1625, proved 1626, Martha Castelin confirmed this grant. The houses at that date were occupied by herself and (blank) Huson. She also disposed of beds, bedsteads, cabinets, and pictures in the great chamber, in the lodging-chamber in which she usually lay, and in the little chamber over the counting-house. In 1638 the 2 tenements comprising 16 were occupied by Mr. Jurion (valued at £30 p.a.) and Mr. Hughson (valued at £6 p.a.). In 1650 John Juryon held or occupied the tenement, once of John Castlin, in St. Pancras parish at the E. end of the cemetery. . . .*

\* **Thomas Castelyn** (d.1595), citizen and mercer of London. For his will, made at Ipswich, Suffolk, on 7 November 1595 and proved 1 December 1595, see TNA PROB 11/86/392. In the will he describes himself as a Merchant Venturer, and mentions his wife, Mary; his brother-in-law, John Oldham of London, clothworker; and John Oldham the younger, to whom he bequeaths his 'freedom of Muscovia'. For a Chancery suit in which he is identified as the uncle of Samuel Knolles, see TNA C 2/Eliz/C6/42. For an indenture dated 20 March 1561 by which Thomas Castelyn, Sir Robert Martyn, and Richard Whalley conveyed Welbeck Abbey to Queen Elizabeth, see TNA E 355/166.

According to Sutton, in 1576 Thomas Castelyn and his step nephews, Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?) and Edmund Martyn (d.1596), were among seventeen mercers involved in a loan from the Queen. See Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), p. 483.

*In May 1576 the queen proposed to hand over to the city £160,000, which was 'to remain in store' for the service of the realm, and to be lent out for at least one year on interest, no one taking more than £500 and no one less than £50. Seventeen mercers offered to take a total of £3,475, of whom one was a customs official and one a courtier.*

*AC 1560-95, ff. 296-97 list presented to mayor: Thomas Bates £500; Richard Barnes, Thomas Colshill, Humphrey Martin £300 each; Henry Campion ( a courtier rather than a mercer), Matthew Field, Anthony Walthall, William Barker and Edmund Martin £200 each; Edmund Smith £150; John Flower £125; Thomas Egerton, Edmund Hogan, Thomas Castelyn, Thomas Cordall, Ellis Hanmer and John Phipps £100 each.*

\* **John Castelyn** (baptized 21 August 1539, buried 2 July 1621), mercer, who on 22 November 1568 married his sister Elizabeth Castelyn's stepdaughter, Martha Martyn, the sister of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), dedicatee of the *Langham Letter*, by whom it appears he had no issue. See Chester, Joseph Lemuel and George J. Armytage, eds., *The Parish Registers of St. Antholin, Budge Row, London*, (London: Harleian Society, 1883), Vol. VIII, p. 19 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=wzfvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA19>

For the record of John Castelyn's baptism at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 126 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/126>

For the record of his burial 2 July 1621 in the vault at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 297 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/296>

His widow, Martha (nee Martyn) Castelyn, was buried in the vault at St Pancras on 5 January 1626. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 298.

For the will of John Castelyn, dated 12 September 1608 and 16 May 1615 and proved 1 October 1621, see TNA PROB 11/138/191. For the will of Martha (nee Martyn) Castelyn, dated 27 October 1625 and proved 13 January 1626, see TNA PROB 11/148/66.

\* **Elizabeth Castelyn**, who married firstly the mercer, Thomas Knolles (d.1551), by whom she had two sons, Thomas Knolles and Samuel Knolles. For the will of Thomas Knolles (d.1551), see TNA PROB 11/34/212.

Elizabeth Castelyn married secondly, as his second wife, Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she had three daughters, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/65/430.

By his first wife, Lettice Pakington (d. 23 December 1552), Sir Roger Martyn had two sons, Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* (see above), and Edmund Martyn (d.1596), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/87/460, and two daughters, Susan Martyn (living 5 January 1583), who on 22 November 1568 married Robert Bye (d.1582) of London, gentleman, and Martha Martyn, who on 22 November 1568 married

the testator's son, John Castelyn (1539-1621) (see above). See also the Martyn pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond00cook#page/2/mode/2up>

For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48.

\* **Bennet Castelyn** (buried 29 January 1585), for whose marriage to William Hammerton by licence dated 16 March 1548 see Chester, Joseph Lemuel and George J. Amytage, eds., *Allegations for Marriage Licences*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXIV, p. 12 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/allegationsforma00cant#page/12/mode/2up>

For Bennet Castelyn Hammerton's burial at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 290 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/290>

\* **Anne Castelyn**. She is mentioned in the will, dated 18 April 1558 and proved 9 February 1559, of her uncle, James Castelyn, TNA PROB 11/42A/330, and in the will of her brother, John Castelyn, who refers to her as his sister, Anne Gotobed. At that time she appears to have been the wife of Henry Gotobed, who witnessed John Castelyn's will:

*To my sister, Anne Gotobedd, if she be living at the time of my decease, five pounds.*

Henry Gotobed may have been Anne Castelyn's second husband. An Anne Castelyn married John Hutton on 11 February 1567. See Chester, *supra*, p. 18 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=wzfvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA18>

It is possible that Anne Castelyn's first husband was the son of John Hutton (d.1537?), Governor of the Merchant Adventurers at Antwerp in 1537. See Nicoll, Allardyce, ed., *Shakespeare In His Own Age*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1964), p. 227 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=syA4AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA227>

See also an assessment for 'discharging the burial and funeral charges of Mr John Hutton, late Governor' in *The Records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, Vol. II, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1899), p. 28 at:

<https://archive.org/details/extractsadventur02surtooft/page/28>

Anne Castelyn's husband may have been related to the Hutton family of Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire. See the will, proved 16 November 1596, of John Hutton (d.1596) of Dry Drayton, TNA PROB 11/88/317, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hutton-john-1596>

See also Foster, Joseph, *The Register of Admissions to Gray's Inn, 1521-1889*, (London: Hansard Publishing Union, Limited, 1889), p. 77 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Z2avAzMEDDcC&pg=PA77>

*3 February 1591 Roger Hutton, cousin and heir apparent of John Hutton of Dry Drayton*

In 1543 the testator was governor of the English merchants at Antwerp. See a letter from the testator to Sir Thomas Seymour and Dr Nicholas Wotton dated 19 June 1543, TNA PRO SP 1/179, f. 70r, and:

'Henry VIII: June 1543, 16-20', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 18 Part 1, January-July 1543*, ed. James Gairdner and R H Brodie (London, 1901), pp. 406-420. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol18/no1/pp406-420> [accessed 7 July 2019].

*19 June. R.O.*

**735.** *William Castlyn, Governor of the English Merchants in Antwerp, to Seymour and Wotton.*

*Thanks for their pains taken in the suit of the Fellowship. Upon receiving their letters this day, to prove the tolleners and other officers charged with receiving the impost, the Company sent to the water side certain goods to be shipped. Thereupon the officers demanded the tax, denying that they had any word from the Regent or Council to the contrary, as Thomas Nycolls, the bearer, can declare. Begg them with speed to move the Regent or Council to remedy this delay. Andwarpe, 19 June 1543. Signed : Yowrs Will'm Castlyn, gov'ner.*

*P. 1. Add. : "To the right honorable Sir Thomas Seymour, knight, and Mr. Doctor Wotton, dean of Cantourbury, the King's Majesty's ambassadours, this be delivered in Bruxells with speed." Sealed. Endd.*

The testator was buried 19 April 1545 in the church of St Pancras, Soper Lane. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 285 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/284>

For the burial of his widow, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 289 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/288>

LM: T{estamentum} W{illemi} Castlyn

In the name of God, Amen. The 17<sup>th</sup> day of April Anno Domini 1545, I, William Castelyn, mercer, make this my last will in the honour of God and in perfect mind;

I do bequeath my soul to Jesus Christ and to the whole company of heaven, my body to be buried in Saint Pancras Church or the churchyard whereas the rulers thereof will assign it;

I do bequeath to priests and clerks for their dirge and Mass 6s 8d;

And forasmuch as I am a very poor man and hath had much loss, I am not able to extend my gifts;

But first that I would my debts should be paid, that is to say, I do owe to our Sovereign Lord the King £200, the days past, and for considerations that my Lord of Essex late departed had a remorse in me, did by my good Lords and friends stay the matter till this time, so that his Majesty is moved thereof by the right honourable Lord Privy Seal and Sir William Paget a little before his Grace's going to Boulogne;

And forasmuch as the time hath been so (blank) both with his Grace and also his honourable Council, the matter hath thus stayed, notwithstanding there is few of the Lords of the honourable Council but they know it, and I trust will be good Lords to me in the same, for of truth I had great wrong.

Septimo die Mens{is} ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni mill{esi}mo quingen{tesim}o xlvijo emanuit Comissio Edwardo Castlyn filio naturali et l{egi}timo prefati def{uncti} ab intestato dec{e}den{ti} habent{is} etc ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita eiusdem def{uncti} iuxta tenorem scedule siue vltime voluntat{is} predict{e} De bene administrand{o} eadem ad sancta dei eu{a}ngelia Iurato (blank) Castlyn(?) Relicta oneri admi{n}istrac{i}onis etc renu{n}cian{s} (?)

[=On the seventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48<sup>th</sup> a grant issued to Edward Castelyn, natural and legitimate son of the forenamed deceased, by way of an intestacy, having etc., to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased according to the tenor of the schedule or last will aforesaid, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well administer the same, (blank) Castelyn, relict, renouncing the burden of the administration etc.]